

BURNT CORK. Negro Minstrelism. Its Beauties and Deformities.

Whimsicalities of the Vench Business—End-Men and Middle-Men.

Who that has ever witnessed the triumphant air with which the curtain rises upon the dusky band which constitutes a modern minstrel troupe...

It is now nearly thirty years since negro minstrelism began to be practised as a distinct profession. Its history as a separate and special business begins as far back as the year 1842.

Let it not be thought that these entertainments are lightly provided, or that they cause but little toil and care on the part of those who furnish them.

They are very chary about admitting any new feature into the traditional performances. It was one day present at the rehearsal of a minstrel troupe, when a new comer, who was negotiating for an engagement, asked permission to try a new instrument before the manager.

Perhaps one of the most singular features connected with the profession is the department known as the "wench business." This is comparatively a late outcropping of burnt-corkism, not having been in existence longer than the last ten years.

If the reader ever feels a desire to write a play—or acting sketch, for the style of performance scarcely deserves to be called a play—I advise him not to take the trouble to write it in rhyme, and not to stud it with too many or too pointed jokes.

The intense delight with which the jigs and break-downs of minstrelism are surveyed by genuine negroes arises from the fact that these dances are exact reproductions of the ones which used to be in vogue among the colored people of the South.

Where do minstrels get their jokes from is a question that is often asked, and which it is hardly necessary to answer. In the first place, they have very few new jokes.

The notorious burnt-corkist known as the Only Leon, and belonging to Kelly & Leon's Minstrels, New York city, is perhaps the most celebrated and unique doer of the wench-business extant.

he takes upon himself. He is possessed of quite sufficient brains to write such a burlesque as will take with a New York audience for several months at a time. He dresses his parts sumptuously. The more dresses he can manage to wear during the delineation of any one particular role, and the more expensive and startling their description, the better he is satisfied.

The salaries of negro minstrels vary between twenty dollars and two hundred dollars per week. Twenty-five dollars per week may be assumed as the average. They don't like to play before cheap audiences, and the crowning boast of those that have played to dollar-and-a-half audiences is that they obtained "opera prices."

Another thing that managers of minstrel companies who are minstrels themselves pride themselves upon is the thorough knowledge of music as a science which the members of their troupe possess, and the pure fun and humor of the performance.

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ing some favorite minstrel, who understands his business, explain that he can't sing to-night. He cut his little finger nail too close, and as a result caught cold. Or you hear quail-on-toast described as a pig's foot with a chicken-wing sewed to it.

Occasionally minstrels allow a performer to appear with a white face, but not very often. When this is allowed it is a special condition of the contract. The permission to wear a white face is accorded almost exclusively to boys with soprano voices, who sing one or two sentimental songs during the evening, as was the case with Master Coker, who travelled with Wood's Minstrels some years ago, and Master Raphael de Solla, who last year sang at Bryant's, in New York.

The prices paid by minstrel managers to outside parties who furnish songs, jokes, or burlesques are not very high. Ten dollars will perhaps be given for a sentimental song, but ten to one the piece will have to be altered to suit the requirements of the tenor, who pronounces it "not quite strong enough" for him.

As a rule, professional minstrels, however well paid, do not save money. Their way of life presents temptations akin to those of the theatre, and they pluck the roses as they pass.

RAILROAD LINES.

READING RAILROAD—GREAT TRUNK LINE

OF PASSENGER TRAINS, December 30, 1869. Leaving the Company's depot at Thirteenth and Callowhill streets, Philadelphia, at the following hours: MORNING ACCOMMODATION. At 7:30 A. M. for Reading and all intermediate stations, and Allentown. Retaining, leaves Reading at 6:30 P. M.; arrives in Philadelphia at 9:30 P. M.

AT 8:15 A. M. for Reading, Lebanon, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pine Grove, Tammany, Sunbury, Williamsport, Elmira, Canton, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Wilkesbarre, Pittston, York, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Hagerstown, etc.

THE 7:30 A. M. train connects at READING with East Pennsylvania Railroad trains for Allentown, etc., and the 9:15 A. M. train connects with the Lebanon Valley train for Harrisburg, etc.; and PORT CLINTON and COLUMBIA RAILROADS from Williamsport, Lock Haven, Elmira, etc.; at HARRISBURG with Northern Central, Cumberland Valley, and Schuylkill and Susquehanna trains for Northumberland, Williamsport, York, Chambersburg, Pinegrove, etc.

Leaves Philadelphia at 8:15 P. M. for Reading, Pottsville, Harrisburg, etc., connecting with Reading and Columbia Railroad trains for Columbia, etc. POTTSTOWN ACCOMMODATION. Leaves Pottsville at 6:45 A. M., stopping at intermediate stations; arrives in Philadelphia at 9:10 A. M. Returning, leaves Philadelphia at 4:00 P. M., arrives in Pottsville at 6:15 P. M.

READING AND POTTSTOWN ACCOMMODATION. Leaves Pottsville at 6:40 A. M. and Reading at 7:30 A. M., stopping at all stations; arrives in Philadelphia at 10:20 A. M. Returning, leaves Philadelphia at 4:45 P. M.; arrives in Reading at 7:40 P. M., and at Pottsville at 9:30 P. M.

Trains for Philadelphia leave Harrisburg at 8:10 A. M., and Pottsville at 8 A. M., arriving in Philadelphia at 11 P. M. Afternoon trains leave Harrisburg at 7:30 P. M., and Pottsville at 7:45 P. M., arriving at Philadelphia at 6:45 P. M.

Leaves Philadelphia at 9:15 A. M. Connecting at Reading with Afternoon Accommodation south at 6:30 P. M., arriving in Philadelphia at 9:30 P. M. Market train, with a passenger car, leaves Philadelphia at 12:30 noon, for Pottsville and all way stations; leaves Pottsville at 5:40 A. M., connecting at Reading with Afternoon Accommodation train for Philadelphia and all way stations.

All the above trains run daily, Sundays excepted. Sunday trains leave Pottsville at 6:30 A. M., and Philadelphia at 3:15 P. M. Leave Philadelphia for Reading at 4:25 P. M. CHESTER VALLEY RAILROAD. Passengers for Downingtown and intermediate points take the 7:30 A. M., 12:30 and 4:00 P. M. trains from Philadelphia, returning from Downingtown at 6:30 A. M., 12:45 and 6:15 P. M.

Leaves New York at 9 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., passing Reading at 1:45 and 10:05 P. M., and connecting at Harrisburg with Pennsylvania and Northern Central Railroad Express trains for Pittsburgh, Chicago, Williamsport, Elmira, Baltimore, etc.

Returning Express train leaves Harrisburg on arrival of Pennsylvania Express from Pittsburg at 6:35 A. M., and 12:20 noon, passing Reading at 7:25 A. M., and 1:30 P. M., arriving at New York at 12:20 noon, and 6:35 P. M. Returning Express train leaves Harrisburg on arrival of Pennsylvania Express from Pittsburg at 6:35 A. M., and 12:20 noon, passing Reading at 7:25 A. M., and 1:30 P. M., arriving at New York at 12:20 noon, and 6:35 P. M.

Trains leave Philadelphia at 6:30 and 11:40 A. M., and 6:50 P. M., returning from Tanamqua at 8:35 A. M., and 1:40 and 4:50 P. M. SUSQUEHANNA RAILROAD. Trains leave Auburn at 8:30 A. M. for Pinegrove and Harrisburg, and at 12:10 noon for Pinegrove, Trenton, and York. Returning Express train leaves at 3:40 P. M., from Brookside at 4:00 P. M., and from Trenton at 7:15 A. M. and 6:30 P. M.

Through first-class tickets and emigrant tickets to all the principal points in the North and West and Canada. Excursion Tickets from Philadelphia to Reading and intermediate stations, good for one day only, and sold by Morning Accommodation Market Train, Reading and Pottstown Accommodation Trains, at reduced rates.

Excursion Tickets to Philadelphia, good for one day only, are sold at Reading and intermediate stations by Reading and Pottstown Accommodation Trains, at reduced rates. The following tickets are obtainable only at the office of S. Bradford, Treasurer, No. 327 S. Fourth street, Philadelphia, or of G. A. Nichols, General Superintendent, Reading.

COMMUTATION TICKETS.—At 25 per cent. discount, between any points desired, for families and firms. MILEAGE TICKETS.—Good for 3000 miles, between all points, at \$25.00 each, for families and firms. SEASON TICKETS.—For three, six, nine, or twelve months, for holders only, at all points, at reduced rates.

RAILROAD LINES.

1869.—FOR NEW YORK.—THE CAMDEN AND AMBOY PHILADELPHIA AND TRENTON RAILROAD COMPANY'S LINES FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW YORK AND WAY PLACES.

FROM SOUTH STREET WHARF. At 6:30 A. M. for Philadelphia and Camden. At 8:30 A. M., via Camden and Jersey City. At 9:00 A. M., via Camden and Amboy Express. At 10:30 A. M., for Amboy and intermediate stations. At 11:30 A. M., for Trenton. At 1:30 P. M., for Trenton. At 3:30 P. M., for Trenton. At 5:30 P. M., for Trenton. At 7:30 P. M., for Trenton.

FROM KENSINGTON DEPOT. At 7:30 A. M., 9:30, 11:30, and 3 P. M. for Trenton and Bristol, and 10:45 A. M. and 6 P. M. for Bristol. At 7:30 P. M., 9:30 and 5 P. M. for Morrisville and Tullytown. At 7:30 and 10:45 A. M., and 9:30, 5, and 6 P. M. for Schenck's and Edgington. At 7:30 and 10:45 A. M., and 9:30, 5, and 6 P. M. for Corwells, Torresdale, Holmesburg, Tacony, Wisconsin, Erlingberg, and Frankford, and at 9:30 P. M. for Trenton and intermediate stations.

FOR WEST PHILADELPHIA DEPOT. Via Connecting Railroad. At 7:30 A. M., 11 A. M., 1:30, 4, 8:45, and 12 P. M. New York Express Lines, via Jersey City. Fare, \$2.25. At 7:30 P. M., Emigrant Line. Fare, \$2. At 7:30, 9:30, and 11 A. M., 1:30, 4, 8:45, and 12 P. M. for Trenton. At 7:30, 9:30, and 11 A. M., 4, 8:45, and 12 P. M. for Bristol. At 12 P. M. (Night), for Morrisville, Tullytown, Schenck's, Edgington, Corwells, Torresdale, Holmesburg, Tacony, Wisconsin, Erlingberg, and Frankford, and at 9:30 P. M. for Trenton and intermediate stations.

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RAILROAD LINES.

PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL RAILROAD

AFTER 6 P. M. SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1869. The trains of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad leave the Depot, at THIRTY-FIRST and MARKET streets, which is reached directly by the Market street cars, the last car connecting with each train leaving Front and Market streets thirty minutes before its departure. The Chestnut and Walnut streets cars run within one square of the Depot.

Sleeping-car tickets can be had on application at the Ticket Office, N. W. corner Ninth and Chestnut streets, and at the Depot. Agents of the United Transfer Company will call for and deliver baggage at the Depot. Orders left at No. 90 Chestnut street, or No. 116 Market street, will receive attention.

TRAINS LEAVE DEPOT, VIA: Main Train. Paoli Accommodation, 10:30 A. M., 1:10 and 6:50 P. M. Fast Line and Erie Express, 11:30 A. M., Harrisburg Accommodation, 9:30 P. M. Lancaster Accommodation, 4:10 P. M. Parkersburg Express, 5:30 P. M. Cincinnati Express, 9:30 P. M. Erie Mail and Pittsburg Express, 9:45 P. M. Accommodation, 12:11 A. M. Pacific Express, 12:00 P. M. Erie Mail leaves daily, except Sunday, running on Saturday night to Williamsport only. On Sunday night passengers will leave Philadelphia at 9 o'clock. Pacific Express leaves daily, Cincinnati Express daily, except Saturday. All other trains daily, except Sunday.

The Western Accommodation Train runs daily, except Sunday. For this train tickets must be procured and baggage delivered by 6 P. M., at No. 116 Market street. TRAINS ARRIVE AT DEPOT, VIA: Cincinnati Express, 9:10 A. M. Philadelphia Express, 6:30 A. M. Erie Mail, 9:30 A. M. Paoli Accommodation, 9:30 A. M., 8:40 and 6:45 P. M. Parkersburg Train, 9:10 A. M. Lancaster Express, 11:30 A. M. Erie Express, 12:05 P. M. Southern Express, 1:30 P. M. Lock Haven and Elmira Express, 7:30 P. M. Pacific Express, 4:25 P. M. Harrisburg Accommodation, 4:50 P. M. For further particulars, see Ticket Agent.

PHILADELPHIA, WILMINGTON, AND BALTIMORE RAILROAD—TIME TABLE

Trains will leave Depot, corner Broad street and Washington avenue as follows: Way Mail Train at 9:30 A. M. (Sundays excepted), for Baltimore and all regular stations, stopping at Crisfield and intermediate stations. Express Train at 12 M. (Sundays excepted), for Baltimore and Washington, stopping at Chester, Thurlow, Linwood, Claymont, Wilmington, Newport, Stanton, Newark, Elkton, North-East, Charlestown, Perryman, Havre-de-Grace, Pottsville, and Magnolia. Night Express at 11:30 P. M. (daily), for Baltimore and Washington, stopping at Chester, Thurlow, Linwood, Claymont, Wilmington, Newport, Stanton, Newark, Elkton, North-East, Charlestown, Perryman, Havre-de-Grace, Pottsville, and Magnolia.

Stopping at all stations between Philadelphia and Wilmington. Leave Philadelphia at 11:30 A. M., 2:30, 5:30, and 7:00 P. M. The 5:30 P. M. Train connects with Delaware Railroad for Harrington and intermediate stations. Leave Wilmington 6:30 and 8:10 A. M., 1:30, 4:15, and 7:00 P. M. The 8:10 A. M. Train will not stop between Chester and Philadelphia. The 7 P. M. Train from Wilmington stops at all other Accommodation Trains Sundays excepted.

Trains leaving Wilmington at 6:30 A. M. and 4:15 P. M., will connect at Chester with the 7:00 A. M. and 4:30 P. M. trains for Baltimore Central Railroad. From Baltimore to Philadelphia—Leave Baltimore 7:30 A. M., 11:30 A. M., and 3:30 P. M. Express; 9:30 P. M. Express; 7:25 P. M. Express. From Philadelphia to Baltimore—Leave Philadelphia 9:30 A. M., 1:30 P. M., and 7:30 P. M. Express. The 7:30 P. M. Express will stop at Pottsville, Perryman, Aberdeen, Havre-de-Grace, Perryville, Charlestown, North-East, Elkton, Newark, Stanton, Newport, Wilmington, Claymont, Linwood, and Chester. H. F. KENNEY, Superintendent.

PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD. The trains on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad run as follows from Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, West Philadelphia: WASHINGTON. MAIL TRAIN leaves Philadelphia 7:30 P. M., arrives at Williamsport 9:45 P. M., at Erie 11:30 P. M., at Buffalo 1:15 A. M., at Elmira 3:00 A. M., at Albany 4:45 A. M., at New York 6:30 A. M. ELMIRA MAIL leaves Philadelphia 7:30 P. M., arrives at Lock Haven 9:00 P. M., at Elmira 10:30 P. M., at Albany 12:15 A. M., at New York 2:00 A. M.

MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 7:40 A. M., arrives at Philadelphia 12:45 P. M. MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 9:25 A. M., arrives at Philadelphia 1:30 P. M. MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 11:10 A. M., arrives at Philadelphia 3:15 P. M. MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 1:00 P. M., arrives at Philadelphia 5:00 P. M. MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 3:00 P. M., arrives at Philadelphia 6:45 P. M. MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 4:45 P. M., arrives at Philadelphia 8:30 P. M. MAIL TRAIN leaves Erie 6:30 P. M., arrives at Philadelphia 10:15 P. M.

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AUCTION SALES.

M. THOMAS & SONS, NOS. 139 AND 141 S. 4TH STREET.

Peremptory sale at the Fairmount Rolling Mills, FRANK BUILDINGS, L. M. BIRCH, Esq., Auctioneer, on Saturday, March 25, at 10 o'clock, at the Fairmount Rolling Mills, corner of Belmont and Market streets, the frame buildings, large quantity of lumber, etc. Sale absolute Terms cash. 3 24 24

Sale at the Central Skating Park, Fifteenth and Walnut streets, on Monday Morning, March 22, at 10 o'clock, at the Central Skating Park, corner of Fifteenth and Walnut streets, will be sold the frame buildings, fencing, gas and water pipes, rollers, chairs, stoves, benches, tables, etc., etc. Articles purchased must be removed on or before Saturday, April 1. 3 25 25

SALE OF REAL ESTATE AND STOCKS. March 23, at 10 o'clock, noon, at the Exchange, will include: CHESTER, No. 513—Valuable Store. 75TH No. 620 (South)—Modern Residence. CROOKED HILLS—440 and 800 624 a year. GREEN, No. 11 and 14 on Chestnut street. KENT CO., Delaware—Tract, 7 1/2 Acres. TAYLOR, No. 1200—Modern Dwellings. WALLACE, No. 1113—Modern Residence. MORTGAGE, No. 32 (South)—Modern Residence. 24 1/2 Acres, Germantown, Pleasant Residence. DOCK, No. 235—Valuable Hotel. 24 1/2 Acres, CAMDEN COUNTY, N. J.—Country Place, 20 acres. 2500 shares Vermont Central Railroad Co. 12 shares Western Maryland Railroad, Common. 3 shares Vermont Life Insurance Co. 10 shares Central National Bank. \$5000 Behm Hill Navigation Bank and Car Loan, 1853. 1 share Shipley Home Bank. 10 shares American National Bank. 1 share Academy of Fine Arts. 10 shares Commercial National Bank. 100 shares Central Transportation Co. 3 25 25

BUNTING, DURBORO & CO., AUCTIONEERS. No. 221 and 224 MARKET STREET, corner of Bank street. Successors to John H. Myers & Co. LARGE SALE OF FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN FINE GOODS. On Thursday morning, March 25, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit. 3 25 25

SALE OF 3000 CASES BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, ETC. On Tuesday morning, March 23, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit. 3 24 24

LARGE SALE OF BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS. On Thursday morning, March 23, at 10 o'clock, on four months' credit. 3 25 25

MARTIN BROTHERS, AUCTIONEERS.—(Late Samuel M. M. Thomas & Sons.) No. 704 CHESTNUT STREET, rear entrance from Miner's Trade. EXTENSIVE PEREMPTORY SALE TO THE STATIONERY, BLANK WORK, PAPERS, ENVELOPES, Pens, Pencils, Fancy Goods, Photograph Albums, Cutlery, Leather Goods, Pocket-books, Wall Papers, Miscellaneous Goods, etc., will be sold at Public Sale, without reserve or limitation, for Cash, commencing On Thursday Morning, March 23, at 10 o'clock, at the auction room, No. 704 Chestnut street, a large and well selected stock of desirable goods, including a full line of stationery of every description, an extensive assortment of blank work, wall papers, envelopes, photographs, albums, cutlery, leather goods, pocket-books, cutlery, bookbinders' boards, wall papers, miscellaneous goods, etc., including the sale of the entire stock of Diamond & Co., retiring from business. 3 25 25

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS, FINE TOY BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS, ETC. Also, Miscellaneous Goods, including an excellent assortment of the Toy Books, English and American; a full line of Photograph Albums, Bibles, etc. Catalogues ready for inspection previous to sale. 3 25 25

SCOTT'S ART GALLERY AND AUCTION COMMISSION BALE ROOM. H. SCOTT, Jr., Auctioneer. No. 117 CHESTNUT STREET, (Grand corner at 19th). Furniture sales every Tuesday and Friday morning at 10 o'clock. Particular attention paid to Outdoor